evil and promotion of National integration;

(b) if so, the number of such requests received by Government urging the last two years; and

(c) the number of such programmes telecast during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHIR H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) Doordarshan telecast programmes in various formats, including ballets, on social themes like evils of dowry, promotion of national integration etc. This is a continuous process. Requests received from Cultural and other organisations or individuals from time to time for telecast of their programmes on the subject are considered by Doordarshan on merits. No figures are maintained about the number of such requests received and their programmes telecast by Doordarshan.

एल० पी० जी० वितरकों के पास काम कर रहे मजदूरों को सहायता

323. **श्री सुनील कुमार पट्टनायक :** क्या **श्रम मंत्री** यह बतने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश के सभी राज्यों में एल०पी०जी० वितरकों के पास पिछले दस पंद्रह वर्षों से दैनिक मजदूरी तथा ठेके पर कार्य करने वाले मजदूरों को सरकार से किसी भी प्रकार की सहायता नहीं मिलती है ?

(ख) यदि उपर्युक्त भाग (क) का उत्तर "हां" हो तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और क्या सरकार इन गरीब मजदूरों को किसी प्रकार की सहायता उपलब्ध कराने पर विचार कर रही है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री बिन्देश्वरी दुबे) : क से (ग) सूचना जो एकत्र की जा रही है यथा समय सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Arrears of Provident Fund Dues

324. SHRI RAOOF VALLIULLAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing rate of arrears of Provident Fund dues to the employees, if so, what steps Government have contemplated to realise the arrears;

(b) what were the arrears under the exempted and unexempted sectors in 1986-87 and 1987-88; and

(c) whether Government propose to recover Provident Fund dues deducting certain percentage of the net bills payable on Government purchases?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) Yes, Sir. The E.P.F. and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 has been amended recently and following additional provisions have been made for speedy recovery of arrears:—

(i) The penal provision prescribed in section 14 of the Act have been made more stringent.

(ii) The provisions relating to assessment of dues, recovery of dues as arrears of land revenue, levy of damages etc. have been made applicable to the exempted establishments.

(iii) A provision has been made For Setting up an Independent machinery of the E.P.F. Organisation for realisation of arrears of the E.P.F. dues.

(b) The amount of arreasr were as given below:—

(Rupees in crores)

Year	Exempted Establishments	Unexempted Establishments.
1986-87	98.51	71.97
1987-88	111.43	78.74

(c) No, Sir.

Support Price of Sugarcane

325. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the support prices of high-yielding variety, as also of general variety of sugarcane for the year 1988-89 are higher in Uttar Pradesh as compared to Haryana; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to instruct the Haryana Government to raise the sugarcane price to *the level of Uttar Pradesh*?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) The Central Government fixes the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories. The price fixed by the Central Government is uniform throughout the conutry. For 1988-89, the Central Government have announced a price of Rs. 19.00 per quintal linked to a recovery of 8.5 per cent. Different State Governments also announce priecs of sugarcane payable by sugar factories, based on local conditions, although these State Advised Prices do not have any statutory backing. The Central Government has not yet received any offical confirmation about State Advised Prices for the 1988-89 sugar season from concerned State Governments. The Central Government does not instruct State Governments about the level of State Advised Prices.

Increase in the prices of levy sugar, Edible Oil and Rice

326. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the prices of levy sugar, edible oil, wheat, and rice; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) The prices of levy suger applicable to the production of the sugar year 1988-89 and the Central issue prices of rice based on the letest paddy procurement prices have not yet been determined. Presently, there is no proposal to increase the issue prices of improrted edible oils or to increase, during the current rabi marketing year, the central issue price of wheat for the public distribution systems.

Viewers preference survey in Andhra Andhra Pradesh

327. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan have recently conducted any viewers preference survey in several places in Andhra Pradesh; and